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Recommended Citation

Office of University Communications, "Gardner-Webb Graduate Student to Participate in National Memorial Day Veterans Ride" (2017). *Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive*. 625.
<https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gardner-webb-newscenter-archive/625>

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Gardner-Webb Graduate Student to Participate in National Memorial Day Veterans Ride

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Office of University
Communications

May 11, 2017

David Lee to Join “Run for the Wall” Motorcycle Riders During Annual Event to Honor Veterans

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – A

Gardner-Webb graduate student will
be participating in a unique Memorial

photo of David Lee

Day event in honor of area veterans. MBA-Plus student David Lee, center leader for the Army Recruiting Center in Shelby, N.C., will join the coast-to-coast motorcycle ride, “Run for the Wall,” which will conclude in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day Weekend.

The annual Run for the Wall ride for veterans was established in 1989 by two Vietnam veterans who hoped to raise awareness about the thousands of men and women still unaccounted for from all wars. The goal of the group is to promote healing for all veterans and their families, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War (POWs) and those Missing in Action (MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support military personnel around the world.

Each May, riders launch from Ontario, Calif., and individuals from across the nation join the procession to Washington. This year, the West coast portion of the ride begins on May 17. Lee plans to connect with the riders on the southern route in Chattanooga, Tenn., on May 23. At the culmination of the ride, he will deliver items to the Wall on behalf of loved ones. He also hopes to collect charcoal rubbings of veterans’ names from the Memorial and return them to family members.

“I’m covering all the costs associated with this campaign—fuel, bike maintenance, hotel, food, etc.,” Lee explained. “I am not asking for money or sponsorships, this is just something I am really passionate about. I see it as an opportunity to communicate support to the veterans in our communities. I’d be thrilled to be asked to collect 100 name rubs—but if I only do one, it’s a successful mission to me.”

Photo of David Lee

Photo Credit: Stacy Pearsall

A military member himself, Lee is hoping for a chance to let veterans—especially Vietnam veterans—know how much their service and sacrifices are appreciated. “I came home from Iraq and Afghanistan to a hero’s welcome,” Lee shared. “They didn’t. I see this ride as a

way to let them know how much I care.”

If you'd like to reach David Lee and request a charcoal rubbing of a loved one's name, call 828-788-2910 or email him at mrdivdlee@hotmail.com. To learn more about the Run for the Wall, visit rftw.us.

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